

Good afternoon,

I am writing to oppose the bill:

Raised Bill No. 5322: AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A HUMAN SERVICES PERMIT AND A REQUIREMENT THAT SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS CONDUCT HOME VISITS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

Education Committee

Submitted By: _Jill Soucy, LCSW _____

The bill proposing that social workers do home visits is greatly concerning. There are so many reasons why, but I will summarize with two: safety and workload.

I love home visits. Precovid and before my caseload included 35 mandated students plus 17 non-mandated, I did home visits all the time. I delivered thanksgiving meals, I brought my puppy to see students, I brought toys and groceries. I did it because I wanted to, not because I had to. The families loved it, but I didn't go to every student, some families prefer to keep to themselves and I respected that.

My caseload is unmanageable right now. Additionally, I carry a walkie talkie and respond to countless behavioral calls. I can't imagine leaving the school to do that many home visits. Who would do my work at the school in my absence?

Lastly, the safety. I work at a magnet school where our students come from many different towns and cities. It's insulting to say the least that no one has thought through the safety risk this would put us at. If we choose to do home visits, feel there is no safety risk, and the families WANT us to do them, then let us do them on our own accord.

Again, I am strongly opposed to Bill No. 5322 regarding home visits.

Thank you,

Jill Soucy, LCSW